#### BEFORE THE CANNABIS COMPLIANCE BOARD 1 STATE OF NEVADA 2STATE OF NEVADA, CANNABIS COMPLIANCE BOARD, 3 4 Petitioner, Case No. 2021-54 5 vs. 6 NNV OPERATIONS I, INC., 7 Respondent. 8 COMPLAINT FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION 9 The Cannabis Compliance Board of the State of Nevada (the "CCB"), by and through 10 counsel, Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General of the State of Nevada, Emily N. Bordelove, Esq., 11 Senior Deputy Attorney General, L. Kristopher Rath, Esq., Senior Deputy Attorney 12 General, Ashley A. Balducci, Esq., Senior Deputy Attorney General, and Michael D. 13 Detmer, Esq., Senior Deputy Attorney General, having a reasonable basis to believe that 14

#### JURISDICTION

CCB's charges and allegations as follows:

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1. During all relevant times mentioned in this Complaint, Respondent NNV held, and currently holds, the following licenses:

NNV OPERATIONS I, INC. ("Respondent NNV" or "Respondent") has violated provisions

of Chapters 678A through 678D of the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") and the Nevada

Cannabis Compliance Regulations ("NCCR"), hereby issues its Complaint, stating the

| ID#   | Licenses                                      | Last<br>Issued /<br>Renewed | Address |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|---------|
| C141  | Medical Cultivation<br>65990416749820182121   | 7/30/2021                   |         |
| RC141 | Adult-use Cultivation<br>71187112253124699452 | 7/30/2021                   |         |
| P091  | Medical Production<br>93052076991207348450    | 7/30/2021                   |         |
| RP091 | Adult-use Production 72255924921531241817     | 7/30/2021                   |         |

- 2. During all relevant times mentioned in this Complaint, Respondent NNV is and was registered as a Domestic Corporation in the State of Nevada. The Nevada Secretary of State lists the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director of Respondent NNV as John Sutton. The CCB's points of contact for Respondent NNV are John and Julie Sutton.
- 3. As Respondent NNV holds its licenses with CCB, it is subject to NRS Title 56 and the NCCR for the violations asserted herein. Therefore, Respondent NNV is subject to the jurisdiction of the CCB and subject to discipline pursuant to NRS 678A through 678D and the relevant provisions of the NCCR.
- 4. Pursuant to NRS 678A.500 and 678A.510(1), the CCB's Executive Director has transmitted the details of the suspected violations of Respondent NNV to the Attorney General, and the Attorney General has conducted an investigation of the suspected violations to determine whether they warrant proceedings for disciplinary action. The Attorney General has recommended to the Executive Director that further proceedings are warranted, as set forth in this CCB Complaint. The CCB has authorized proceeding with disciplinary action against Respondent NNV, pursuant to NRS 678A.510(2)(b). Pursuant to NRS 678A.520(1), the CCB's Executive Director has authorized service of this Complaint upon Respondent NNV.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 5. CCB incorporates all prior Paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 6. On or about November 8, 2021 CCB agent, Shandon Snow ("Investigator Snow") conducted a routine investigation into Respondent NNV's tax compliance after its bank returned multiple payment checks due to insufficient funds. Investigator Snow's investigation uncovered the following history and continuing tax violations.

### A. History of Tax Non-Compliance, June 30, 2019 - May 31, 2020:

7. Respondent NNV has a history of filing late tax returns with either partial or no payment of the Wholesale Marijuana Tax ("WMT") owed to the Department of Taxation ("the Department") for the following tax periods, as of November 5, 2021:

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Period

Base Tax

Balance

| _ !    |          |             |             |             |          |             |          |                                    |
|--------|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| 2      | 06/30/19 | \$ 8,087.44 | \$1,688.78  | \$ 3,411.41 | \$25.000 | \$13,212.63 | 06/30/19 | No<br>remittance                   |
| 3      | 07/31/19 | \$12,303.04 | \$ 1,230.30 | \$ 2,491.36 | \$-      | \$16,024.70 | 08/28/19 | No<br>remittance                   |
| 4<br>5 | 08/31/19 | \$13,548.79 | \$ 1,495.84 | \$ 2,747.74 | \$-      | \$17,792.37 | 09/30/19 | Underpaid/<br>Calculation<br>Error |
| 6      | 09/30/19 | \$18,742.71 | \$ 1,874.27 | \$ 3,514.26 | \$-      | \$24,131.24 | 10/31/19 | No<br>remittance                   |
| 7      | 10/31/19 | \$23,012.91 | \$ 2,301.29 | \$ 4,142.32 | \$-      | \$29,456.52 | 12/02/19 | No<br>remittance                   |
| 8      | 11/30/19 | \$28,719.44 | \$ 2,871.94 | \$ 4,954.11 | \$-      | \$36,545.49 | 12/31/19 | No<br>remittance                   |
| 9      | 12/31/19 | \$11,513.56 | \$ 1,151.36 | \$ 1,899.73 | \$-      | \$14,564.65 | 01/28/20 | No<br>remittance                   |
| 10     | 01/31/20 | \$34,135.04 | \$ 3,413.50 | \$ 5,376.27 | \$-      | \$42,924.81 | 03/02/20 | No<br>remittance                   |
| 11     | 02/29/20 | \$49,791.52 | \$ 4,979.15 | \$ 7,468.73 | \$-      | \$62,239.40 | 03/31/20 | No<br>remittance                   |
| 12     | 03/31/20 | \$57,330.14 | \$ 5,733.01 | \$ 8,169.55 | \$-      | \$71,232.70 | 04/30/20 | No<br>remittance                   |
| 13     | 04/30/20 | \$30,719.54 | \$ 3,071.95 | \$ 4,147.14 | \$-      | \$37,938.63 | 05/30/20 | No<br>remittance                   |
| 14     | 05/31/20 | \$36,621.06 | \$ 3,662.11 | \$ 4,669.18 | \$-      | \$44,952.35 | 06/30/20 | No<br>remittance                   |
| 15     |          | •           | •           |             |          |             |          |                                    |

Interest as of

11/31/2021

Penalty

Fees

Total AR

Post Mark

Date

Reason

- 8. Regarding the WMT Period of June 30, 2019, Respondent NNV made some late payments towards the original amount of \$16,887.83, with the current base tax balance of \$8,087.44.
- 9. Respondent NNV also has a history of filing late tax returns with no payment of the Modified Business Tax ("MBT") owed to the Department for the following tax periods, as of November 5, 2021:

| Per    | iod | Base Tax<br>Balance | Penalty   | Interest as of 11/31/2021 | Total AR    | Post Mark<br>Date | Reason        |
|--------|-----|---------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 09/30/ | 19  | \$5,542.75          | \$ 554.28 | \$ 1,039.27               | \$ 7,136.30 | 06/30/21          | No remittance |
| 12/31/ | 19  | \$4,943.81          | \$ 494.38 | \$ 815.73                 | \$ 6,253.92 | 06/30/21          | No remittance |

## B. Taxation Violations for WMT Returns from December 31, 2020- June 30, **2021**:

10. After the NCCR took effect on August 5, 2020, Respondent NNV continually failed to remit WMT payments owed to the Department for the following six tax periods,

as of November 5, 2021:

|   | Period   | Base Tax<br>Balance | Penalty    | Interest as of 11/31/2021 | Fees    | Total AR     | Post<br>Mark<br>Date | Reason                                       |
|---|----------|---------------------|------------|---------------------------|---------|--------------|----------------------|--|
|   | 12/31/20 | \$31,268.74         | \$3,126.87 | \$2,345.16                | \$ -    | \$36,740.77  | 09/13/21             | No<br>remittance                             |
| l | 01/31/21 | \$ -                | \$1,853.89 | \$ 278.08                 | \$ -    | \$ 2,131.97  | 04/30/21             | Underpaid                                    |
|   | 02/28/21 | \$20,853.38         | \$2,085.34 | \$1,251.20                | \$ -    | \$24,189.92  | 06/30/21             | No<br>remittance                             |
|   | 03/31/21 | \$23,994.48         | \$2,399.45 | \$1,259.71                | \$ -    | \$27,653.64  | 06/30/21             | No<br>remittance                             |
|   | 04/30/21 | \$29,712.05         | \$2,971.21 | \$1,337.04                | \$ -    | \$34,020.30  | 06/30/21             | No<br>remittance                             |
|   | 06/30/21 | \$37,947.16         | \$3,794.66 | \$1,138.40                | \$50.00 | \$ 42,880.22 | 07/29/21             | Return<br>check/<br>partial-no<br>remittance |
| l |          |                     |            |                           | TOTAL   | \$167,616.82 |                      |  |

- 11. Regarding WMT amounts for the January 31, 2021, period, on or about April 30, 2021, Respondent NNV submitted a late cash payment of the \$18,538.89 base tax balance to the Department.
- 12. Regarding WMT amounts for the June 30, 2021, period, on or about July 29, 2021, Respondent NNV issued a check for \$37,947.16 to the Department. However, the bank returned the check due to insufficient funds. On or about August 9, 2021, the Department forwarded Respondent NNV a Notice of Dishonored Payment, notifying it of the returned check and assessing a \$25.00 fee per NRS 360.238. On or about August 16, 2021, Respondent NNV issued another check for \$39,016.24. Again, the bank returned this check due to insufficient funds. On or about August 31, 2021, the Department forwarded Respondent NNV a Notice of Dishonored Payment for this check and assessed an additional \$25.00 fee.

# C. <u>Taxation Violations for MBT Returns from September 30, 2020- March 31, 2021</u>:

13. After NCCR took effect on August 5, 2020, Respondent NNV continually failed to remit MBT payments owed to the Department for the following three tax periods, as of November 5, 2021:

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| Period   | Base Tax<br>Balance | Penalty   | Interest as<br>of 11/30/2021 | Total AR    | Post Mark<br>Date | Reason        |
|----------|---------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 09/30/20 | \$ 3,427.08         | \$ 342.71 | \$ 334.14                    | \$ 4,103.93 | 10/22/20          | No remittance |
| 12/31/20 | \$ 3,002.83         | \$ 300.28 | \$ 225.21                    | \$ 3,528.32 | 01/19/21          | No remittance |
| 03/31/21 | \$ 2,007.59         | \$ 200.76 | \$ 105.40                    | \$ 2,313.75 | 04/12/21          | No remittance |
|          |                     |           | TOTAL                        | \$ 9,946.00 |                   |               |

## D. June 30, 2021, Payment Plan Agreements:

- 14. On June 30, 2021, Respondent NNV's points of contact, John Sutton and Julie Sutton, signed two separate Payment Plan Agreements ("Agreements") and submitted these to the Department. The Agreements list \$527,890.48 as the total amount of delinquent taxes, penalty, and interest due as of June 30, 2021, encompassing:
  - WMT Returns for the June 30, 2019 May 31, 2020 and January 31, 2021 April 30, 2021 periods;
  - MBT Returns for quarters ending September 30, 2019 December 31, 2019 and September 30, 2020;
  - Time and Effort Billings posted for March 31, 2019 and October 31, 2019; and
  - Marijuana Civil Penalty posted on the November 30, 2018 period, filled with partial or no remittance.
- 15. The Agreements each required an initial payment of \$1,000 and subsequent monthly payments of \$2,600, due on the 30<sup>th</sup> of each month, beginning July 30, 2021, to continue until Respondent NNV paid the outstanding balance in full.
- 16. Both John and Julie Sutton executed a Personal Guaranty to secure their respective Agreements.
- 17. On or about August 30, 2021, Julie Sutton signed a check for \$5,200 under Respondent NNV's account. She submitted the check to the Department as payment per the terms of the Agreements. However, the bank returned this third check due to insufficient funds. On or about September 7, 2021, the Department forwarded Respondent NNV a Notice of Dishonored Payment, notifying it of the returned check and assessing a \$25.00 fee.

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#### VIOLATIONS OF LAW

- 18. CCB incorporates all prior Paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 19. As to licenses C141 and RC141, Respondent NNV violated NRS 372A.290, NAC 372A.160, NCCR 4.035(1)(a)(5), and/or NCCR 4.050(1)(a)(9) by intentionally or unintentionally failing to remit WMT payments due for six separate periods to the Department, as outlined in Paragraphs 10-12, above. These violations, if intentional, constitute six separate Category I violations. Pursuant to NCCR 4.035(2)(a), such violations carry civil penalties of up to \$90,000 and revocation of Respondent NNV's licenses. Alternatively, these violations, if unintentional, constitute six separate Category III violations. Pursuant to NCCR 4.050(2)(a), such violations carry civil penalties of not more than \$10,000 for the first violation, not more than \$30,000 for the second violation, not more than \$90,000 for third and fourth violations, for a total of \$220,000 in civil penalties, and revocation of Respondent NNV's licenses due to subsequent violations. NCCR 4.050(2)(a).
- 20. As to licenses C141, RC141, P091, and RP091, Respondent NNV violated NRS 363B.110, NAC 363B.130, NCCR 4.035(1)(a)(5), and/or NCCR 4.050(1)(a)(9) by intentionally or unintentionally failing to remit MBT payments due for three separate periods to the Department as outlined in Paragraph 13 above. These violations, if intentional, constitute three additional Category I violations. In the alternative, if these violations are unintentional, they constitute three additional Category III violations. Accordingly, at a total of nine Category I violations, or alternatively, nine Category III violations, NCCR 4.035(2)(a)(2) and 4.050(2)(a)(5) respectively, require the revocation of Respondent NNV's licenses. NCCR 4.035(2)(a)(2) and 4.050(2)(a)(5).

#### DISCIPLINE AUTHORIZED

Pursuant to the provisions of NRS 678A.600, NCCR 4.020, 4.030, 4.035 through 4.060, and 5.100, the CCB has the discretion to impose the following disciplinary actions:

1. Revoke licenses C141, RC141, P091, and RP091, as a result of Respondent NNV's violations of NRS Chapters 678A through 678D;

- 2. Suspend the aforementioned licenses of Respondent NNV;
- 3. Impose a civil penalty of not more than \$90,000 for each separate violation of NRS Chapters 678A through 678D; and
  - 4. Take such other disciplinary action as the CCB deems appropriate.

The CCB may order one or any combination of the discipline described above.

#### RELIEF REQUESTED

Based on the foregoing, counsel for the CCB respectfully requests the CCB impose the penalty of revocation of licenses C141, RC141, P091, and RP091. Additionally, counsel for the CCB requests the CCB impose civil penalties against Respondent NNV in the amount of \$90,000 if the violations are intentional and, in the alternative, \$220,000 if unintentional.

#### NOTICE TO RESPONDENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Respondent has a right to request a hearing on the charges set forth herein, pursuant to NRS 678A.510 through 678A.590. Failure to demand a hearing constitutes a waiver of the right to a hearing and to judicial review of any decision or order of the Board, but the Board may order a hearing, even if the Respondent so waives its right. NRS 678A.520(2)(e).

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, you, as the Respondent, must Answer this Complaint within 20 days after service of this Complaint, unless granted an extension. Pursuant to NRS 678A.520(2), in its Answer Respondent:

- (a) Must state in short and plain terms the defenses to each claim asserted.
- (b) Must admit or deny the facts alleged in the Complaint.
- (c) Must state which allegations the Respondent is without knowledge or information to form a belief as to their truth. Such allegations shall be deemed denied.
- (d) Must affirmatively set forth any matter which constitutes an avoidance or affirmative defense,
- (e) May demand a hearing. Failure to demand a hearing constitutes a waiver

of the right to a hearing and to judicial review of any decision or order of the Board, but the Board may order a hearing even if the Respondent so waives its right.

Failure to Answer or to appear at the hearing constitutes an admission by the Respondent of all facts alleged in the Complaint. The Board may take action based on such an admission and on other evidence without further notice to the Respondent. NRS 678A.520(3).

The Board shall determine the time and place of the hearing as soon as is reasonably practical after receiving the Respondent's Answer. The Board may assign a hearing officer to conduct the hearing under NCCR 2.070, 4.095, and 4.110. The Board or its assigned hearing officer shall deliver or send by registered or certified mail a notice of hearing to all parties at least 10 days before the hearing. The hearing must be held within 45 days after receiving Respondent's Answer unless an expedited hearing is determined to be appropriate by the Board, in which event the hearing must be held as soon as practicable. NRS 678A.520(4). The Chair of the Board or the assigned hearing officer may grant one or more extensions to the 45-day requirement pursuant to the request of a party or an agreement by both parties.

Respondent's Answer and Request for Hearing must be either: mailed via registered mail, return receipt; or emailed to:

Tyler Klimas, Executive Director Cannabis Compliance Board 555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 4100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 tklimas@ccb.nv.gov

If serving its Answer and Request for Hearing via email, Respondent must ensure that it receives an acknowledgement of receipt email from the CCB as proof of service. Respondent is also requested to email a copy of its Answer and Request for Hearing to the Senior Deputy Attorneys General listed below at <a href="mailto:listed-below-ag.nv.gov">listed-below-ag.nv.gov</a>, <a href="mailto:abelow-abelove@ag.nv.gov">abalducci@ag.nv.gov</a>, <a href="mailto:mailto:abelow-abelove@ag.nv.gov">abalducci@ag.nv.gov</a>, <a href="mailto:mailto:mailto:mailto:abelow-abelove@ag.nv.gov">abalducci@ag.nv.gov</a>, <a href="mailto:

As the Respondent, you are specifically informed that you have the right to appear

and be heard in your defense, either personally or through your counsel of choice at your own expense. At the hearing, the CCB has the burden of proving the allegations in the Complaint. The CCB will call witnesses and present evidence against you. You have the right to respond and to present relevant evidence and argument on all issues involved. You have the right to call and examine witnesses, introduce exhibits, and cross-examine opposing witnesses on any matter relevant to the issues involved.

You have the right to request that the CCB issue subpoenas to compel witnesses to testify and/or evidence to be offered on your behalf. In making this request, you may be required to demonstrate the relevance of the witness's testimony and/or evidence.

If the Respondent does not wish to dispute the charges and allegations set forth herein, within 30 days of the service of this Complaint, Respondent may, pay the civil penalties set forth above in the total amount of \$ 90,000, and surrender licenses C141, RC141, P091, and RP091 on notice to:

Tyler Klimas, Executive Director Cannabis Compliance Board 555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 4100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Certified Mail: 7014 2870 0001 8497 8413

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#### DECLARATION AND CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF COMPLAINT FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION (Service via Mail)

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I, Amber Virkler, hereby certify and affirm that:

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1. I am over the age of 18 years old.

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2. I am a Board Agent of the Cannabis Compliance Board ("CCB"), as defined in NCR 1.068.

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3. Pursuant to NRS 678A.520 and NCCR 4.075, I have served the Respondent herein with the Complaint for Disciplinary Action ("Complaint") in the above captioned matter as follows:

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By placing a true and correct copy of the Complaint to be deposited for mailing in the United States Mail in a sealed envelope via registered or certified mail, prepaid in Las

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Vegas, Nevada, to Respondent's point of contact with the CCB under NCCR 2.050 at

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Respondent's address on file with the Board as follow:

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Address on file with CCB:

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Date of Service: November 30, 2021

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Name of point of contact served: John Sutton

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on\_November 30, 2021

(date)

(signature)